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COMMITTEES:

Finance
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Rules and Administration

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-4205

July 23, 2004

Dear Friend:

Thank you for contacting me to express your thoughts on the semi-automatic assault weapon ban. It is an honor to serve you in the Senate and a privilege to respond to your concerns.

Gun control is a controversial issue. People acting in good faith will very often disagree on the most effective way to address violent crime while recognizing the rights of law abiding gun owners, and I respect the diversity of views on this important matter.

I have long believed that further federal regulation of gun ownership is not the best answer to preventing violent crime, and I am a strong supporter of the Second Amendment. Our enemy is the criminal, not the weapon. A person intent on committing a violent crime will not be stopped by more gun control laws. Instead, Congress and the States should work to ensure that violent crimes are vigorously prosecuted, to keep guns out of the hands of criminals and to better enforce our existing laws. Through this common sense approach, we can continue to reduce violent crime across the nation and protect the rights of law abiding gun owners.

Again, thank you for contacting me. As the Senate continues to face many complex and challenging issues, I hope you will continue to give me the benefit of your thoughts and advice.

Sincerely,



William H. Frist, M.D.
Majority Leader
United States Senate

P.S. Please visit <http://frist.senate.gov> to register for my e-mail newsletter.